

CI

AC. 4461(1) TODMORDEN

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1924.

PRESENTED APRIL. 1925.

TODMORDEN -

J. Bentley & Sons, Printers, etc., Albion Works, Halifax Road.

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1924.

Health Committee—

ALDERMAN J. H. SUTCLIFFE (Chairman), HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ALD. E. CRABTREE), ALDERMEN T. GREENWOOD, J.P., W. GREENWOOD, ORMEROD, J.P., C.C., PICKLES, J.P., COUNCILLORS GOUCKE, KING, NAESMITH, NEWELL, H. SUTCLIFFE, WALTON, WOODHEAD.

List of Sub-Committees of Health Committee—

Sewage Work Management Sub-Committee, Horse and Yard Sub-Committee, Baths and Cemetery Sub-Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Medical Officer of Health—

CECIL L. WILLIAMS, B.Sc., Hons. Lond : L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.
Eng. : D.P.H. Camb. : M.R.San. I. : F.R.I.P.H.



BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

Public Health Department,

Roomfield,

Todmorden,

March, 1925.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1924.

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health this Report will be an ordinary report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL L. WILLIAMS.

PART A. SECTION 1.**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area, (acres)—12,770.

Population, 23,660.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 6,700.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921),
Houses generally occupied by one family only.

Rateable value, £144,644.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£500.

PART A. SECTION 2.**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.****Births.**

Legitimate—Males, 152 ; Females, 148.

Illegitimate—Males, 9 ; Females, 5.

Total—Males, 161 ; Females, 153.

Birth Rate (R.G.) 13.27.

Deaths—375.

Death Rate (R.G.) 15.84.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of
childbirth from Sepsis—1.

From other causes—Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age—Legitimate—28, Illegitimate—5, Total, 33. Equals 108.91 per 1,000 births.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—4.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—1.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—1.

PART A. SECTION 3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR. TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Cases Ad- mitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	1	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
Enteric Fever (including Para Typhoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	3	7	4	3	6	5	7	3	9	8	11	6	...	24
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	...	1
Anthrax .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	7	5	6	8	9	9	3	13	8	14	9	12	31

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1.5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.10	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
10.15	1	3	4	2	—	—	—	—
15.20	5	2	3	2	—	—	—	—
20.25	6	3	—	4	1	—	—	—
25.35	6	4	2	4	2	—	—	—
35.45	4	6	—	—	1	—	—	—
45.55	7	—	—	—	3	—	2	—
55.65	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	38	26	9	14	7	1	2	—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified—1. Treated at Home—1. In Hospital 0.

Vision unimpaired—1.

Vision impaired—0.

Total blindness—0.

Deaths—0.

PART A. SECTION 4.

Amongst children there has been a considerable amount of Chicken Pox, Measles and Whooping Cough, amongst adults Influenza and Respiratory Diseases.

The epidemic of Measles spread furiously throughout the town, affecting first one locality and then another. Generally speaking it started in the centre of the town and spread outwards along the three valleys. Unfortunately the seriousness of Measles is not understood by the general public al-

though the amount of Whooping Cough which has followed the Measles this year demonstrates to those who are interested in children, the serious complications which do arise after this disease.

On one occasion Alderman Sutcliffe, Chairman of the Health Committee in proposing the Minutes of the Health Committee, spoke very pointedly of the fact that many parents and guardians of children do not take sufficient care to see that children suffering from Measles are kept away from other children.

It is impossible in Todmorden to touch on any question relating to Public Health without coming to the question of Housing, and it is recognised that under the present housing condition in Todmorden domestic isolation of cases of Measles is particularly difficult, but this is no excuse for the cases which have been brought to our notice, of children recently excluded from school by reason of the fact that they have Measles, being allowed to play with other children.

It must be realised that Public Health is a matter of individual attention to detail and the control of an epidemic of Measles is thus ultimately in the hands of the parents and the guardians of the children who are affected.

Similarly with regard to the outbreak, from time to time, of Influenza, it is not heroic for a person suffering from "flu" to remain at what he or she considers to be a point of duty—it is folly. In some cases it may be that the person affected has little or no opportunity of deciding the point. In other cases the folly of going about infecting other people has no excuse.

PART A. SECTION 5.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Professional Nursing in the Home is largely carried out by the Local Nursing Association, although of course private nurses do attend a certain number of cases.

Midwives.

Midwives in the District number eight, including three whom are employed by the Nursing Association.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation for children is very inadequate. Largely you depend on the Hospitals at Manchester and in other towns nearby. The question of providing Hospital accommodation in Todmorden itself has been again discussed during the year 1924.

I do wish the Local Authority always to keep before it the possibility, if and when the occasion is opportune, of providing a Hospital in Todmorden, with departments for out-patients work where the whole of the public medical service can be unified.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name of Centre.	Medical Officer.	Where held.	Nature of Accommodation.	Local Authority	Remarks.
Maternity and Child Welfare	M.O.H.	Central Offices, Roomfield.	Consulting room and Waiting room.	Local Authority	Held weekly. The work of the Centres is chiefly consultative in character, but treatment in minor ailments is carried out.
School Clinic (Medical)	M.O.H.	Central Offices, Roomfield. Vale Cl. School. Inchfield Bottom Sunday School.	Consulting room and Waiting room	Local Authority	The School Clinic is open nine times per week during term time, and arrangements are made, where possible, for treating a limited number during the vacation.
Dental	E. B. Gibson, Esq., L.D.S., Manch.	Central Offices, Roomfield.	Operating room and Waiting room	Local Authority	For the L.E.A. two half days weekly. For the L.S.A. (M. & C.W.) two half days every three months.
Tuberculosis	Dr. G. M. B. Liddle	Masonic Hall.	Waiting room and consulting room on ground floor.	W.R.C.C.	Visits town twice weekly.

There are no Day Nurseries.

The needs of the town for treatment of Venereal Diseases are at present best met by the Clinics in neighbouring towns and cities.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

1. Tuberculosis.

These are provided by the W.R.C.C., and are situated at Ilkley, Cargate, and elsewhere, beds for children also being reserved at Alton and Leasowe.

2. **Maternity.**—None are provided.

3. **Children.**—None provided.

4. **Fever.**—Forty-six beds.

5. **Small Pox.**—Thirty-six beds.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the District.—Nil.

Ambulance Facilities—

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—These are removed in a special Motor Ambulance kept at the Fever Hospitals.

(b) **Non-infectious Cases.**—A Rolls Royce Motor Ambulance is provided for these cases.

PART A. SECTION 6. LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Hall, Wakefield.

Supplies of the various outfits most commonly in use are kept at the Central Office and distributed to the Doctors as occasion arises. The following table shows the number of specimens submitted to the County Hall during the year.

Widal—25.

Sputum—42.

Diphtheria—24.

Ringworm—36.

Milk—6.

Miscellaneous—2.

A small amount of work is also carried out for the private practitioners by the pathological departments of local hospitals and by private laboratories.

The above figures include specimens submitted by the Medical Officer of Health from the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is stored in the Health Department and supplied to Local practitioners when required.

PART A. SECTION 7.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District with date of adoption.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 ; 13th November, 1899.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act to apply to Anthrax, 25th April, 1917.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ; 4th February, 1891.

The Public Health Amendments Act, 1890 ; 29th April, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (certain portions) made applicable for the Borough by Order of the Local Government Board, dated 2nd July, 1910.

30th August, 1899.—Regulations under the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops Order of 1885.

By an Order of the Local Government Board, dated 9th June, 1916, the notification of Births Act, 1907 was declared from and after 1st, July, 1916, to take effect in the Borough as if it had been adopted by the Town Council instead of by the County Council.

By an Order of the Local Government Board dated 26th May, 1917, certain trades were declared to be offensive trades within the meaning of Sec. 51 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907.

The provisions of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, dealing with specially designated milk, have not so far influenced Todmorden at all.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Closet Accommodation and Conversion—

No. of privies with open middens—1 ; Seventy-five privies in isolated parts of the district, without movable receptacles, but ashes not mixed with excrement.

No. of Pail or Tub closets—In connection with (a) houses—1178 ; (b) factories and workshops, etc.—131.
Total, 1309.

No. of Privies with covered middens—0.

No. of water closets in connection with houses—3516.
In connection with factories, etc.—509. Total—4025.

No. of waste water closets—393.

No. of privies re-constructed during 1924—(a) w.c.'s—0 ;
(b) other—1 as a tub closet.

No. of additional tub closets provided for old property
in 1924—(a) as w.c.'s—34 ; (b) other—1.

No. of closets constructed in 1923 for new houses—
(a) as w.c.'s—13 ; (b) other—0.

No. of closets converted to w.c.'s during 1924—24.

PART A. SECTION 7.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1924.

Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	Total...	3053
1. For nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	294
2. Where infectious disease has occurred	...	...	...	...	14
3. Where Phthisis has occurred	...	...	...	...	0
4. Where offensive trades are carried on	...	...	...	...	15
5. Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	77
6. Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	58
7. Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	39
8. Inspections of Ice Cream Manufactories	...	...	...	...	17
9. Inspections under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	172
10. Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	236
11. Inspections of Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	0
12. Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	21
13. Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	833
14. Inspections of Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	17
15. Inspections of Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	140
16. Inspections of Markets	...	...	...	...	83
17. Inspections under the Housing, Town Plan- ning, etc., Act, 1909 and 1919	...	...	...	...	398
18. Re-inspections under the Housing, Town Plan- ning, etc., Act, 1909 and 1919	...	...	...	...	257
19. Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	...	...	...	...	277
20. Inspection of Conveniences under Con- version Scheme	...	...	...	...	105

21.	No. of houses disinfected after		
	(1) infectious disease ...	...	11
	(2) phthisis ...	...	2
22.	No. of schools or departments disinfected	...	1
23.	Smoke test applied to drains	...	6
24.	Smoke observations taken	...	64
25.	Samples of milk taken for analysis	...	28
26.	Samples of water taken for analysis	...	7
27.	No. of complaints investigated	...	133
28.	Cases abated under preliminary notice	...	141
29.	Cases abated under statutory notice	...	373

**SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE
WITH NOTICES ETC., DURING THE YEAR ENDING,
31st DECEMBER, 1924.**

House Drainage—

Waste pipes disconnected from house drains	...	18
Waste pipes trapped	...	1
House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	23
New pipe drains provided	...	47
House drains connected to sewer	...	121
Drains trapped	...	8

Sanitary Conveniences—

Closets discharging into stream, converted to water closets and connected to sewer	...	7
Tub closets converted into water closets	...	24
New water closets provided	...	34
Privy converted to Tub Closets	...	2
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	38
Waste W.C. converted to W.C.	...	2
Urinals repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	1
Tub Closets abolished	...	8

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses—

Closets provided with proper supply of water	...	4
Existing sanitary accommodation in factories improved	...	3
Conveniences cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	1
Factories provided with sufficient and suitable closet accommodation	...	2
Workshops provided with sufficient and suitable closet accommodation	...	0
Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	3

Houses repaired etc., under Housing, Town Planning, etc., Acts, 1909 and 1919.

On the service of informal notices	...	...	32
By notice under Section 28 of the 1919 Act	...	...	28
No. of houses closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	9
Houses rendered fit for habitation under Sec. 17	...	...	2
No. of Houses demolished	...	...	4

Cowsheds and Dairies—

No. of shippons provided with proper lighting and ventilation	...	...	...	20
No. of shippon floors relaid with manure trench, etc	...	...	...	7
No. of shippon floors and walls put into repair	...	...	...	18
No. of shippons with drain inlets properly trapped in open air	...	...	...	13
No. of shippons provided with proper pipe drains...	...	...	...	5
No. of shippons with woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
No. of shippons provided with proper water supply	...	...	...	2
New Middensteads provided	...	...	...	1
No. of shippons cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	...	3

Slaughterhouses—

Slaughterhouses repaired, etc.	1
--------------------------------	-----	-----	---

Miscellaneous—

Cisterns closed under Sec. 70 of the P.H.A., 1875...	...	...	1
No. of seizures of unsound food	...	...	7
No. of houses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	...	4
No. of cases of overcrowding abolished...	...	...	3
No. of accumulations of manure, refuse, etc. removed	...	...	8
Pollutions of water supplies remedied	...	...	3
Water supplies properly piped	...	...	2
No. of new sinks provided	...	...	10

SUMMARY OF PARTICULARS OF NOTICES SERVED AND THE RESULTS OF SERVICE, TAKEN FROM TABLES C AND D FOR YEAR 1924.

Number of Notices served during the year —

Notices for Abatement of Nuisances—Statutory—23.
 Complied with—17 ; Informal—77 ; Complied with—75.

Notices served under Housing, Town Planning, etc. Acts, 1909 and 1919—

Notices served to execute repairs—Statutory (sec. 28)—29 ; Complied with—28 ; Informal—66 ; Complied with—32.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

Notices served—Statutory—30 ; Complied with—27 ; Informal—0 ; Complied with—0.

Action under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

No. of Closing Orders served (Statutory)—10 ; Complied with—7.

Inspection of places where food is prepared—

See general summary of work done.

ARRANGEMENTS OF DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR USE.

The disinfection of houses is carried out by means of sulphur candles, spraying, general cleansing, etc.—For extent of use see general summary.

Action under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order—

No. of samples taken by officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts—22 ; No. adulterated—1.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—6.

What arrangements for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows—None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1924—No.

No. of cowkeepers in district—102 ; No. registered—102.

No. of retail milksellers who are also cowkeepers—98.

No. who are milk retailers only—2.

Total number of milk sellers registered—98.

Total number of cowsheds—250.

Total number of inspections in 1924—236.

PART A. SECTION 8.**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**

Cecil L. Williams, Roomfield, B.Sc., Hons. Lond : L.R.C.P.
M.R.C.S. Eng : D.P.H. Camb : M.R.San.I. : F.R.I.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health unites in one whole time appointment the duties of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

E. B. Gibson, Roomfield, L.D.S. Manch : Dental Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, part time.

Frederick Rogers, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector, whole time.

L. A. Crabtree, A.R.S.I. Assistant Sanitary Inspector whole time.

Mrs. A. N. Gee, Roomfield, C.M.B., S.R.N., A.R.S.I., Borough Nurse.

Miss A. Johnson, Roomfield, C.M.B., S.R.N., Borough Nurse.

Miss J. Hoyle, Roomfield, C.M.B., S.R.N., Borough Nurse.

Miss C. Sutcliffe, Roomfield, Clerk, (duties divided between L.S.A. and L.E.A.)

Miss E. Crowther, A.R.S.I., Clerk, whole time.

PART A. SECTION 9.**HOUSING.****Number of New Houses erected during the year—**

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	9
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...				8

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection—

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	398
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...				368
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...			12
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...		95

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	32
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers—

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	29
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By owners... ..	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners	27
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(c) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	10
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	2
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	0

PART B.

Under this heading a statement of any noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the area is required of the Medical Officer.

The Housing condition is a factor which re-occurs under this heading yearly.

The general climatic conditions too have been prejudicial to the enjoyment of good health.

The fact that in Todmorden we enjoy so little sunshine makes it desirable that the Housing conditions should be above the average, so that the maximum benefit may be derived from the minimum amount of sunshine we enjoy. Adverting to the question of tub closets mentioned in my last Annual Report, a start has been made in dealing with this objectionable method of dealing with personal excretion, and it is hoped in the next Annual Report to be able to supply figures showing a substantial number of conversions.

PART C.

Noteworthy occurrences affecting the Health of the town during the year may be summarised as follows :—

During the year the Maternity and Child Welfare Service has been extended by setting up, at Vale and Walsden, branch Clinics. These Clinics are of an experimental nature and up to the present I have formed the opinion that they are meeting a real demand for such work in the localities where they are situated.

Your Authority is represented on the Smoke Abatement Committee the centre of whose activity is at Manchester. A certain amount of preliminary work has been done by this Committee and very possibly certain recommendations will be laid before you during the coming year.

The Smoke Nuisance is aggravated in Todmorden by reason of the fact that whilst such smoke is whirled about the draughty valleys it escapes only very slowly from the valleys themselves. This, together with the fact I have already pointed out, of the need there is in Todmorden of making the most of every ray of sunshine, makes it highly desirable that smoke abatement should be looked upon as of special importance to your town.

PART D.

No special action has been taken during the year to arouse public interest in the prevention of ill health, but the possibility of holding a Health Week in 1925 is being very favourably considered.

PART E.

Adverting to the question of the Small Pox Hospital raised under this section last year, the circumstances remain the same as in previous years.

In accordance with the instructions of the Health Committee a report was laid before the appropriate Sub-Committee on the question of Maternal Mortality. This report followed closely the lines indicated in the Ministry's own Memorandum on this question. The most interesting feature of the report was the advice contained in it that an Ante-Natal Clinic should be definitely set up in Todmorden.

I am of opinion such a Clinic is desirable in the interests of expectant mothers, and the figures I have adduced earlier in this report on Infant Mortality demonstrate clearly that such a Clinic is highly necessary in the interests of these expectant mothers' unborn children.

It is unfortunate that hitherto the Joint Hospital Committee responsible for the Fielden Hospital which deals with Infectious Fevers has not been able to see its way to enlarge the scope of its activities.

Last year I represented that the occasional cases of Encephalitis Lethargica we get should be treated at this Hospital, and this year to this recommendation I would add that similar provision should be made for the occasional cases of Puerperal Fever which occur in your District.

22

